

## **EARLY INTERVENTION NEWSLETTER**

### **A Bi-monthly information sheet for EI service coordinators**

The purpose of this information sheet is to address general topics that may be of interest in the performance of your job as a service coordinator

I KNOW THAT NYEIS IS STRESSING EVERYONE OUT, NOT TO MENTION THE FISCAL CLIMATE SO THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO THE ROLE OF THE SERVICE COORDINATOR AND THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE.

If you look at the regulations, they primarily describe service coordination as:

“Assistance and services provided by a service coordinator to enable an eligible child and the child’s family to receive the rights, procedural safeguards and services that are authorized to be provided under the Early intervention Program” NYS Regs 69-4.1

The regulations dedicate four plus pages as to the responsibilities service coordinators have within the EI program (pages 23 – 28 in the regulations).

Being an effective service coordinator however is about much more than implementing the IFSP and coordinating services with providers and families. A good service coordinator possesses a sensitivity that allows them to monitor the pulse of a child’s team to facilitate the best possible experience for families that have to be involved with the Early Intervention program.

You as the service coordinator (as the initial) are the first person a family sees, to deal with the dawning knowledge that your child is not developing as a typical child would. As an ongoing service coordinator you are the steadfast point of contact for a family even when providers may change,

diagnosis's are made, progress is slow, etc., - you are the one constant in the EI program that is there for the family.

Service coordinators serve as a sounding board for the providers about families, and for families about providers. Service coordinators are the ones that have to deliver the hard news – I.E., I really do think you need to consider . . . a different provider, more evaluations, a trip to the Kirch center, etc. We are the ones that offer reassurance, information, support as families learn to navigate a system that they wish they didn't. Service coordinators are the ones that support the providers as they work with sometimes very difficult and challenging families and situations. Service coordinators need to know about resources, paperwork, regulations, guidelines, child development.

For those of you who are interested – I have attached a link to an article by Mary Beth Bruder and Carl J. Dunst that examines variables associated with different service coordination practices. The article is dry but in its discussion of results I wanted to share one paragraph with you.

“The relative importance of service coordinator use of family-centered helping practices as a determinant of service coordinator practices deserves comment because it illustrates *how* service coordinators work with families matter a great deal in explaining variations in use of desired and valued practices. This finding adds to a burgeoning body of evidence, indicating that the use of family-centered practices has both direct and indirect influences on the nature of parent-practitioner relationships and child, parent and family outcomes.”<sup>1</sup>

[http://depts.washington.edu/isei/iyc/21.3\\_bruder.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/isei/iyc/21.3_bruder.pdf)

These are my thoughts, my editorial – and I want you all to remember as we go through changes with NYEIS/paperwork processes/etc., – that the importance of the relationships you develop with your families is the one thing that will never change .

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<sup>1</sup> Bruder, M. B., & Dunst, C.J., (2008) Factors Related to the Scope of Early Intervention Service Coordinator Practices. *Infants & Young Children*, 21(3), 176-185

**WHAT'S NEW?????**

CONGRATULATIONS to:

CHRISSY WATKINS (CAFL) - She has been promoted to Assistant Ongoing Service Coordinator Supervisor.

CHRISTIE PRITCHARD (CAFL) is a New Foster Mom for PIT BULL pup named Wasabe.

DESERE LESTER (FRC) will be wearing two hats for awhile. She will be FRC's developmental Group teacher until Michele returns from maternity leave.

CATIE HENDERSON (CFC) is a proud momma to her new kitty OLIVER

HEIDI SMITH (CFC) is turning into quite the traveler – in FLORIDA in March and taking a cruise in MAY to MEXICO

BRIANNA FESTA (CFC) is a student intern at CFC contemplating a career at CFC

NANCY CONSOL (RCN) is the new DIRECTOR of the SMILE program at RCN and OSC's supervisor

KAREN MONTAGLIONE (RCN)– will be taking a cruise to the CARIBBEAN – Haiti/Jamaica AND she will be a grandmother in JUNE!!!!

CINDY MIZERNY (County) went to Las Vegas and came back a loser!! (☺ - teasing myself!)

JEREMIAH WEBBER is a new supervisor at SKIP of NY

MICHELLE CLIFFORD is new Care at Home/EI service coordinator at SKIP of NY

MARY BETH STORY (county) is going on vacation to Myrtle Beach!

**THE CHANGE CORNER – a quick list of recent changes:**

- **NYEIS!!!!**
- **All re-referrals to EI require a multidisciplinary evaluation (RE-REFERRALS TO EI FOR ISC'S AND EVALUATORS -updated policy 3/11)**
- **Initial Service Coordinators are required to get a new consent form completed from families to continue to serve as service coordinators in order to look for initial services (CONSENT FORM MCDOH-EIP TO CONTINUE SERVICE COORDINATION)**
- **ISC Documentation form has been modified to reflect indicating parent declining to give SS# or completing insurance form, and to reflect parent gave consent to continue with the ISC.**
- **TRANSITION CHANGES – remember to send core evaluation report to the CPSE when you send in a referral for an older toddler, and all evaluations need to be sent to the CPSE when completed for a child over the age of two.**
- **REMEMBER TO look at the PROVIDER AVAILABILITY GRID when looking for services.**

Editor's Note: Any comments, feedback, suggested topics strongly welcomed. You can reach me at [CMizerny@monroecounty.gov](mailto:CMizerny@monroecounty.gov) or phone # 753-5265.